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1981 AND 1982 NEBRASKA POPULATION ESTIMATES

This article reviews the provisional July 1982 and July 1981 population estimates for Nebraska and its counties. As in previous years, these estimates were prepared jointly by the Bureau of Business Research and the U.S. Census Bureau under the Federal-State Cooperative Program for Population Estimates. These estimates mark the first opportunity to update and review some of the demographic trends of the 1970s revealed in the 1980 census.

STATE ESTIMATES

The 1982 provisional estimate of Nebraska's resident population is 1,592,000, an increase of 1.4 percent since the 1980 census. If this trend continues throughout the 1980s, the decade growth rate (1980-1990) would be about seven percent. Though two years may be too few to detect a trend, it appears the 1980s have continued the population growth trend which began in the previous decade.

Since the 1980 census, the state is estimated to have added approximately 22,000 persons to its population. The primary reason was a natural increase in population (the excess of births over deaths) of 28,000. The natural increase is larger than the actual growth because of an approximate net outmigration of 6,000 persons (-0.4 percent). If the two-year outmigration rate persists throughout the entire decade, the 1980s will represent a period of 2.0 percent outmigration—another indication that the relative stability of the 1970s has continued.

COUNTY ESTIMATES

The population estimates for Nebraska's counties indicate the majority of counties shared the state's growth. Table 1 on page 2 presents the county populations for 1980, 1981, and1982 with growth rates and migration rates between 1980 and 1982. The two maps on page 3 compare growing and declining counties (Figure 1), and counties with inmigration and those with outmigration (Figure 2). When reviewing these estimates, however, it is important to remember that population estimates are subject to bias and error, and that estimates for less-populated counties are likely to be less accurate than those for more-populated counties. Extreme care should be used, therefore, when interpreting small changes.

Table 1 and Figure 1 show that 54 of the state's counties added population between 1980 and 1982, and 26 of these grew faster than the state's 1.4 percent growth rate. This is a sizeable increase over the previous decade when 42 counties registered growth. Figure 1 also shows all areas of the state shared in the growth.

The state's two fastest growing counties were at opposite borders. Both Kimball and Sarpy counties recorded increases of 6.0 percent; Kimball's growth was a reversal of two decades of loss, while Sarpy County continued as one of the state's most rapidly growing counties. Though not among the leaders in rates of growth, Lancaster County, with an addition of 6,200 persons, recorded the largest increase to its population. Other rapidly growing counties with their growth rates were Banner, 5.7 percent; Wheeler, 5.5 percent; Buffalo, 5.0 percent; Phelps, 4.2 percent; and Hooker, 4.1 percent. With the exception of Sarpy County, this group of counties was in the western two-thirds of the state.

Blaine County was the state's most rapidly declining county with a loss in population of 6.9 percent between 1980 and 1982. Blaine's decline was a reversal of its increase in the 1970s. The largest contrast, however, occurred in Lincoln County. During the 1970s, it was the third fastest growing county in the state; but between 1980 and 1982, it experienced the second largest percentage decline in population (4.5 percent). This decline represented a loss of 1,700 persons (the largest absolute loss in the state). Other counties with large decreases in population were Pawnee, -4.0 percent; Keya Paha, -3.3 percent; Sherman, -3.3 percent; and Sioux, -3.1 percent.

Net migration (difference between persons moving into a county and those moving from a county) is the component of population change that is most volatile. Between 1980 and 1982, 31 counties in Nebraska recorded net inmigration of residents, compared to 28 during the 1970s. Table 1 shows those counties with the highest growth rates also had the highest inmigration rates, and those with the largest percentage declines also had the largest outmigration rates. Kimball County is the leader with inmigration of 4.1 percent. Sarpy, on the other hand, slipped to seventh with a rate of 2.2 percent. The inmigration rates of the remainder of the leading counties were Buffalo, 3.0 percent; Phelps, 2.9 percent; Wheeler, 2.8 percent; Hooker, 2.6 percent; and Banner, 2.3 percent. The map on page 3 shows, again, counties with net inmigration were dispersed throughout the

(continued on page 6)

TABLE 1
ESTIMATES OF THE POPULATION OF NEBRASKA COUNTIES: JULY 1, 1981 AND 1982[1]

Area	Provisional July 1, '82	July 1, '81	Census April 1, '80	Percent Change 1980-82	Net Migration Rate[2]
NEBR.	1,592,000	1,581,000	1,569,825	1.4	-0.4
Adams	31,400	31,100	30,656	2.5	1.4
Antelope	8,700	8,700	8,675	0.6	-1.2
Arthur	550	500	513	(z)	(z)
Banner	950	1,000	918	5.7	2.3
Blaine	800	800	867	-6.9	-8.2
Boone	7,400	7,400	7,391	0.5	-1.8
Box Butte	14,100	14,300	13,696	3.2	0.1
Boyd	3,300	3,300	3,331	-2.0	-2.4
Brown	4,400	4,400	4,377	1.3	0.8
Buffalo	36,500	35,700	34,797	5.0	3.0
Burt	8,600	8,700	8,813	-1.9	-1.7
Butler	9,400	9,300	9,330	0.5	-0.3
Cass	21,000	20,300	20,297	3.4	1.4
Cedar	11,100	11,300	11,375	-2.2	-3.8
Chase	4,900	4,800	4,758	2.3	0.9
Cherry	6,800	6,900	6,758	1.2	-0.7
Cheyenne	10,100	10,100	10,057	0.1	-1.0
Clay	8,000	8,000	8,106	-1.9	-2.8
Colfax	9,900	9,900	9,890	-0.4	-1.3
Cuming	11,600	11,700	11,644	-0.4	-1.8
Custer	14,000	14,000	13,877	0.9	0.4
Dakota	17,100	17,000	16,573	2.9	0.1
Dawes	9,500	9,600	9,609	-0.8	-2.1
Dawson	22,400	22,200	22,304	0.3	-1.5
Deuel	2,400	2,400	2,462	-2.6	-2.7
Dixon	7,100	7,200	7,137	0.1	-0.7
Dodge	36,000	36,100	35,847		
Douglas	402,000	397,400	397,038	1.2	-0.9
Dundy	2,900	2,900	2,861	0.8	1.1
Fillmore	7,900	7,800	7,920	-0.3	-0.1
Franklin	4,400	4,300	4,377	0.8	1.8
Frontier	3,700	3,700	3,647	1.3	-0.5
Furnas	6,500	6,500	6,486	0.5	-0.2
Gage	24,300	24,500	24,456	-0.8	-1.2
Garden	2,800	2,800	2,802	1.5	1.7
Garfield	2,300	2,300	2,363	-2.8	-2.9
Gosper	2,200	2,100	2,140	1.3	0.9
Grant	850	850	877	-1.3	-3.6
Greeley	3,400	3,400	3,462	-2.4	-3.6
Hall	49,300	48,700	47,690	3.4	1.5
Hamilton	9,400	9,400	9,301	1.4	-0.5
Harlan	4,300	4,400	4,292	1.0	-0.1
Hayes	1,300	1,300	1,356	-1.9	-3.8
Hitchcock	4,100	4,100	4,079	0.9	-0.7
Holt	13,900	13,800	13,552	2.5	0.4
Hooker	1,050	1,000	990	4.1	2.6
Howard	6,700	6,700	6,773	-0.5	-1.5
Jefferson	9,600	9,600	9,817	-1.8	-2.3
Johnson	5,200	5,200	5,285	-2.2	-1.5
Kearney	7,000	7,000	7,053	-0.2	-1.6
Keith	9,300	9,300	9,364	-0.4	-2.3
Keya Paha	1,250	1,250	1,301	-3.3	-4.2
Kimball	5,200	5,000	4,882	6.0	4.1
Knox	11,400	11,500	11,457	-0.8	-1.3
Lancaster	199,000	196,900	192,884	3.2	1.1
Lincoln	34,800	35,800	36,455	-4.5	-6.8
Logan	1,000	950	983	0.6	-1.1
Loup	850	850	859	-2.2	-3.5
McPherson	600	550	593	0.2	-1.9
Madison	31,900	31,600	31,382	1.7	-0.4
Merrick	9,000	9,100	8,945	0.7	-0.8
Morrill	6,200	6,200	6,085	1.1	-0.3
Nance	4,700	4,700	4,740	-1.8	-1.9
Nemaha	8,300	8,300	8,367	-0.7	-1.4
Nuckolls	6,700	6,700	6,726	0.1	-0.5
Otoe	15,100	15,100	15,183	-0.5	-1.0
Pawnee	3,800	3,900	3,937	-4.0	-3.0
Perkins	3,700	3,700	3,637	1.3	0.3
Phelps	10,200	10,000	9,769	4.2	2.9
Pierce	8,500	8,400	8,481	0.7	-1.1
Platte	29,300	29,100	28,852	1.5	-1.1
Polk	6,200	6,200	6,320	-2.5	-2.8
Red Willow	12,800	12,700	12,615	1.8	0.4
Richardson	11,300	11,300	11,315	0.2	0.5
Rock	2,500	2,400	2,383	3.0	0.6
Saline	13,300	13,100	13,131	1.1	0.6
Sarpy	91,200	88,300	86,015	6.0	2.2
Saunders	18,600	18,700	18,716	-0.4	-1.6
Scotts Bluff	38,600	38,800	38,344	-0.7	-1.2
Seward	15,500	15,800	15,789	-1.9	-3.3
Sheridan	7,700	7,600	7,544	1.7	0.4
Sherman	4,100	4,200	4,226	-3.3	-3.6
Sioux	1,800	1,800	1,845	-3.1	-4.4
Stanton	6,500	6,600	6,549	-0.6	-2.9
Thayer	7,600	7,600	7,582	0.3	-0.2
Thomas	950	950	973	-1.3	-3.8
Thurston	7,300	7,300	7,186	1.9	-1.1
Valley	5,800	5,700	5,633	2.1	1.0
Washington	15,700	15,600	15,508	1.5	0.1
Wayne	9,800	9,800	9,858	-0.8	-2.5
Webster	4,900	4,800	4,858	(z)	0.5
Wheeler	1,100	1,100	1,060	5.5	2.8
York	15,000	14,900	14,798	1.1	-0.5
METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS					
Lincoln, Nebr. MSA	199,000	196,900	192,884	3.2	1.1
Omaha, Nebr. –Iowa MSA (Nebr. portion)	508,900	501,300	498,561	2.1	-0.3
Sioux City, Iowa –Nebr. MSA (Nebr. portion)	17,100	17,000	16,573	2.9	0.1
Metropolitan	725,000	715,100	708,018	2.4	0.1
Nonmetro	867,200	865,500	861,807	0.6	-0.8

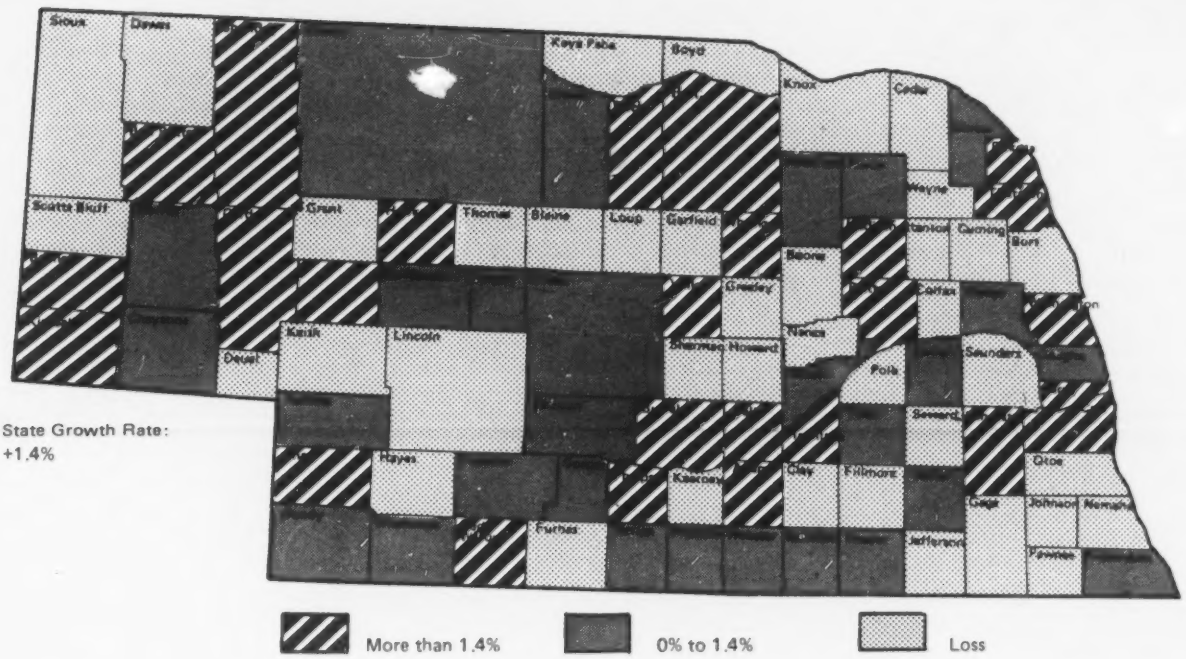
NOTE: State estimates are shown to the nearest thousand, county estimates to the nearest hundred (except counties with less than 2,000 residents are rounded to the nearest fifty—the Census Bureau will publish all county estimates rounded to the nearest hundred). Metropolitan Statistical Area totals rounded independently of county numbers.

[1]The state estimates shown in this report supersede those published earlier in *Current Population Reports*, Series P–25, No. 927.

[2]Net migration is the difference between population change and natural change (births minus deaths) expressed as a percent of the 1980 population. Both percent change 1980-82 and migration rates were calculated from unrounded data.

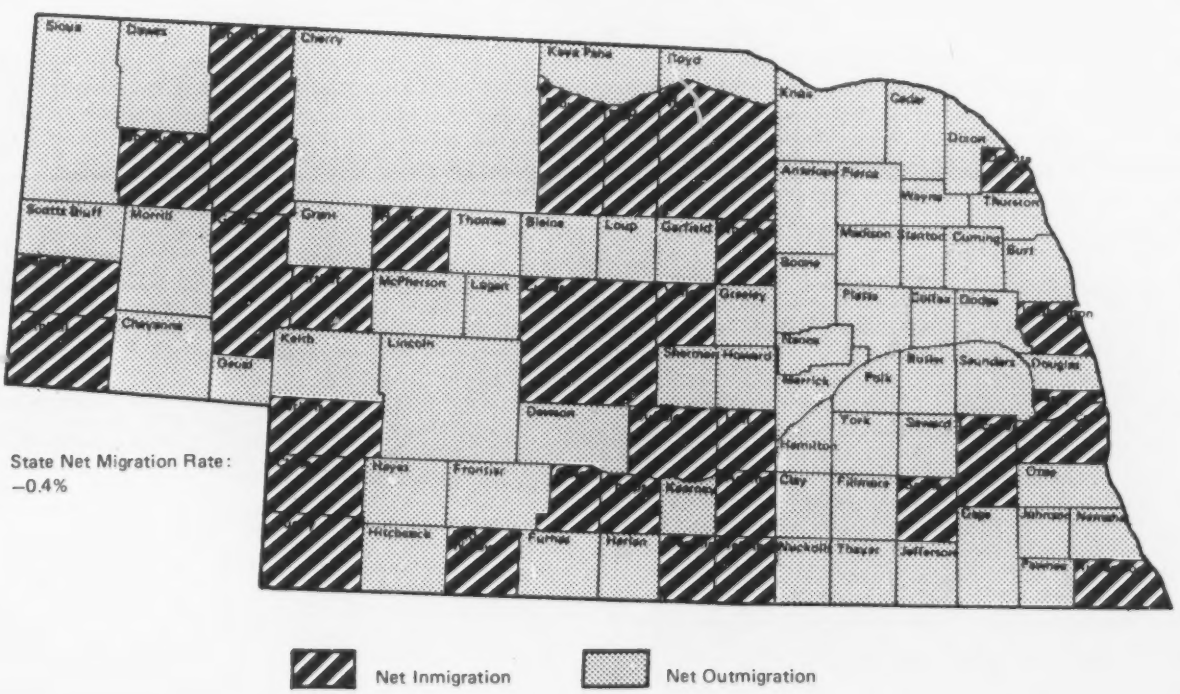
(z) Less than 50 persons or less than 0.05 percent.

FIGURE 1
POPULATION CHANGE: 1980-1982



State Growth Rate:
+1.4%

FIGURE 2
NET MIGRATION: 1980-1982



State Net Migration Rate:
−0.4%

Review and Outlook

Nonagricultural output increased 0.2 percent in December 1983. Cash farm receipts were unavailable at press time, and are not included.

Available agricultural commodity prices show an increase in 1983. Agricultural producers received 10.6 percent more, well above the gross national product implicit price deflator's increase of 4.5 percent, and the consumer price index gain of 3.8 percent. Prices received for Nebraska agricultural products rose 7.4 percent in 1983.

Manufacturing, trade, and government increased in December 1983, but construction fell 6.6 percent. Construction was 76.1 in December 1983 (1967=100), 63.0 in December 1982, and 67.8 in December 1981. Construction activity remains below former peak levels.

Output from Nebraska's manufacturing sector grew 1.7 percent November-December 1983. The manufacturing index was 140.0 in December 1983, and 129.5 in December 1982. Consistent gains in output have been recorded since March 1983. The distributive trade sector recorded a 0.2 percent increase on a monthly basis. This index stood at 140.0 in December 1983, compared with 136.0 at the end of 1982. Output from the

(continued on page 5)

Notes for Tables 1 and 2: (1) The "distributive" indicator represents a composite of wholesale and retail trade; transportation, communication and utilities; finance, insurance, and real estate; and selected services. (2) The "physical volume" indicator and its components represent the dollar volume indicator and its components adjusted for price changes using appropriate price indexes—see Table 5, page 5.

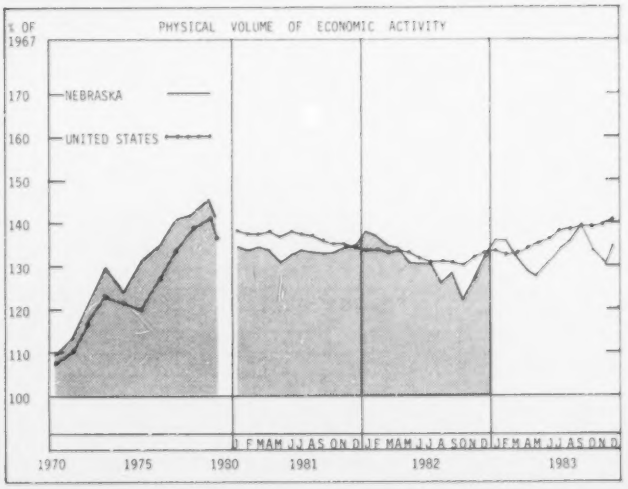
ECONOMIC INDICATORS: NEBRASKA AND UNITED STATES

1. CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

December 1983	Current Month as Percent of Same Month Previous Year		1983 Year to Date as Percent of 1982 Year to Date	
Indicator	Nebraska	U.S.	Nebraska	U.S.
Dollar Volume	na	na	na	na
Agricultural	na	na	na	na
Nonagricultural	108.3	109.4	105.7	106.4
Construction	125.4	115.7	119.3	113.8
Manufacturing	110.0	112.7	97.9	101.2
Distributive	106.8	108.7	106.4	107.8
Government	109.7	105.3	109.8	106.6
Physical Volume	na	na	na	na
Agricultural	na	na	na	na
Nonagricultural	104.6	105.9	101.7	102.9
Construction	120.9	111.5	117.1	111.7
Manufacturing	108.1	111.1	96.6	100.2
Distributive	102.9	104.7	103.0	104.5
Government	104.2	100.3	100.8	99.7

2. CHANGE FROM 1967

	Percent of 1967 Average	
Indicator	Nebraska	U.S.
Dollar Volume	na	na
Agricultural	na	na
Nonagricultural	396.0	404.7
Construction	257.3	369.9
Manufacturing	343.3	313.4
Distributive	424.8	458.1
Government	419.4	408.2
Physical Volume	na	na
Agricultural	na	na
Nonagricultural	136.4	140.8
Construction	76.1	109.4
Manufacturing	140.0	125.1
Distributive	140.0	150.9
Government	147.0	147.0



3. NET TAXABLE RETAIL SALES OF NEBRASKA REGIONS AND CITIES

Region Number[1] and City	City Sales[2]	Sales in Region[2]	
	Dec 1983 as percent of Dec 1982	Dec 1983 as percent of Dec 1982	Year to date 83 as percent of Year to date 82
The State	110.2	108.6	103.5
1 Omaha	128.0	124.1	109.3
Bellevue	133.3		
Blair	87.2		
2 Lincoln	116.5	113.8	108.8
3 So. Sioux City	126.5	119.1	106.5
4 Nebraska City	98.2	92.6	100.0
6 Fremont	113.7	105.9	101.5
West Point	107.3		
7 Falls City	90.6	84.4	98.0
8 Seward	85.2	86.6	100.2
9 York	100.5	93.5	99.7
10 Columbus	96.0	89.8	100.0
11 Norfolk	108.4	101.4	102.2
Wayne	96.8		
12 Grand Island	107.6	102.6	103.4
13 Hastings	105.9	98.5	102.4
14 Beatrice	94.9	89.0	100.9
Fairbury	84.9		
15 Kearney	97.5	91.1	99.8
16 Lexington	111.1	99.1	98.8
17 Holdrege	96.5	90.1	93.7
18 North Platte	102.6	101.6	102.8
19 Ogallala	95.4	92.6	97.5
20 McCook	91.9	88.7	97.4
21 Sidney	115.3	102.5	96.7
Kimball	97.9		
22 Scottsbluff/Gering	103.6	101.1	100.4
23 Alliance	120.5	105.1	101.7
Chadron	104.5		
24 O'Neill	93.3	87.3	95.0
25 Hartington	85.6	74.9	94.6
26 Broken Bow	100.8	94.2	99.8

[1]State totals include sales not allocated to cities or regions. The year-to-year ratios for city and region sales may be misleading because of changes in the portion of unallocated sales. Regional totals include, and city totals exclude, motor vehicle sales. Sales are those on which sales taxes are collected by retailers located in the state. Compiled from data provided by Nebraska Department of Revenue.

1983 YEAR TO DATE AS PERCENT OF 1982 YEAR TO DATE IN NEBRASKA'S PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGIONS

(continued from page 4)

distributive trade sector in Nebraska has grown slowly, but consistently, in 1983. Trade and manufacturing remain below top levels established several years ago.

Output from Nebraska's public sector increased 0.1 percent for the month. The index stood at 147.0 at the end of 1983, 141.1 at the end of 1982, and 143.1 at the end of 1981.

Nebraska dollar volume retail sales were up 8.6 percent in December 1983, compared with December 1982 figures. When adjusted for price changes, total retail sales rose 4.9 percent.

Nonmotor vehicle sales led with a 10.2 percent increase in December 1983. When adjusted for price changes, nonmotor vehicle sales soared 7.1 percent.

Nonmotor vehicle retail sales are adjusted by the commodity component of the consumer price index. This component recorded one of its smallest annual gains in 1983: 2.9 percent on a December–December basis.

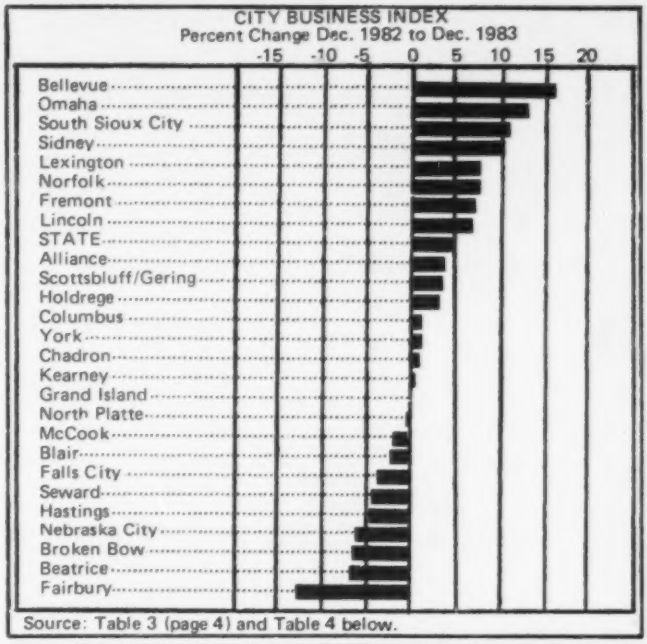
Motor vehicle sales were down 8.0 percent on a dollar-volume basis in December 1983 when compared with December 1982. When adjusted for price changes, sales plummeted 17.3 percent. Motor vehicle sales are adjusted by the motor vehicle component of the consumer orice index. This index recorded an 11.2 percent gain in 1983, which contrasts sharply with the 2.9 percent gain of the overall commodity component.

On a dollar-volume basis, total retail sales in December 1983 were $875.9 million. Total sales were $916.4 million in December 1982. Since sales tax on food was removed October 1, 1983, adjustment must be made to compare these figures. After adjustment, nonfood total retail sales were approximately $806 million in December 1982. Motor vehicle sales were $64 million in December 1983, compared with $69.7 million in December 1982.

Bellevue led Nebraska communities with a 16.3 percent increase in its city business index. Omaha ranked second with a 12.9 percent increase, followed by South Sioux City with a 10.9 percent gain. Sidney recorded a strong gain of 10.6 percent. Other communities with gains above the state average include Lexington and Norfolk, 7.0 percent; Fremont, 6.7 percent; and Lincoln, 6.5 percent.

Nebraska's economy appears to be growing at 1.0 to 3.0 percent per year. Growth will likely continue, despite the uncertain outlook for commodity prices. The most important factor which influences Nebraska growth is national economic expansion. Nationally, output is increasing at an annual rate of 5.0 to 6.0 percent a year, which has a positive impact upon Nebraska.

D.E.P.



Source: Table 3 (page 4) and Table 4 below.

4. December 1983 — CITY BUSINESS INDICATORS

The State and Its Trading Centers	Percent of Same Month a Year Ago: Employment[1]	Building Activity[2]	Power Consumption[3]
The State	101.0	128.1	124.7
Alliance	100.6	48.4	121.2
Beatrice	99.7	51.2	137.1
Bellevue	100.0	192.7	158.5
Blair	104.0	172.7	131.4
Broken Bow	106.4	16.8	119.9
Chadron	99.9	104.6	120.3
Columbus	106.3	126.2	133.6
Fairbury	101.0	30.1	136.0
Falls City	99.5	137.2	107.9
Fremont	103.8	107.1	114.2
Grand Island	102.3	56.5	130.1
Hastings	96.9	37.1	118.3
Holdrege	106.8	211.0	116.2
Kearney	102.9	138.5	115.7
Lexington	106.3	115.0	116.4
Lincoln	99.2	123.3	128.5
McCook	109.0	72.4	102.7
Nebraska City	102.0	36.9	114.0
Norfolk	101.3	231.0	126.7
North Platte	95.1	152.4	102.2
Omaha	99.8	154.8	128.9
Scottsbluff/Gering	99.6	238.2	121.8
Seward	103.1	134.5	131.8
Sidney	102.4	237.3	119.3
So. Sioux City	96.0	167.3	119.9
York	103.8	105.6	119.0

[1] As a proxy for city employment, total employment for the county in which a city is located is used.

[2] Building Activity is the value of building permits issued as spread over an appropriate time period of construction. The U.S. Department of Commerce Composite Construction Cost Index is used to adjust construction activity for price changes.

[3] Power Consumption is a combined index of consumption of electricity and natural gas except in cases marked * for which only one is used.

Source: Compilation by Bureau of Business Research from reports of private and public agencies.

5. PRICE INDEXES

December 1983	Index (1967 = 100)	Percent of Same Month Last Year	Year to Date as Percent of Same Period Last Year*
Consumer Prices	303.5	103.8	103.2
Commodity component	275.5	102.9	102.9
Wholesale Prices	306.0	101.8	101.3
Agricultural Prices			
United States	261.0	110.6	101.2
Nebraska	260.0	107.4	100.7

*Using arithmetic average of monthly indexes.

Sources: Consumer and Wholesale Prices: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Agricultural Prices: U.S. Department of Agriculture.

(continued from page 1)
state, but a larger portion were located in the western two-thirds of the state.

METROPOLITAN AND NONMETROPOLITAN ESTIMATES

Table 1 also shows that Nebraska's combined metropolitan areas (Douglas, Sarpy, Washington, Lancaster, and Dakota counties) experienced a population growth of 2.4 percent (17,000 persons) between 1980 and 1982. This rate is nearly twice that of the state and four times that of the nonmetropolitan counties combined. The metropolitan areas recorded inmigration of 0.1 percent, a rate far too small to offset the outmigration rate of the nonmetropolitan counties.

Beginning in June 1983, several changes in the definition of metropolitan areas occurred which affected Nebraska. First, the SMSA (Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area) designation was dropped and replaced by the MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) designation. More importantly, Washington County was added to the Omaha NE–IA MSA, which means the Omaha MSA now includes Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington counties in Nebraska and Pottowattamie County in Iowa.

Estimates of population for nonmetropolitan Nebraska are subject to somewhat more uncertainty than the metropolitan counties because of the large number of relatively small counties. Although the 1982 estimates provide additional evidence that the population trend of decades of losses in nonmetropolitan Nebraska has reversed, these areas still have a net outmigration of population. Between 1980 and 1982 nonmetro areas increased by 0.6 percent (5,300 persons), but recorded a net outmigration of 0.8 percent.

The 1982 estimates indicate the majority of Nebraskans (54.5 percent) still live in nonmetropolitan areas, but the gap continues to narrow as nonmetro growth rates lag behind those of metropolitan areas. Part of the reason is the loss of population through outmigration. Another, more far-reaching reason, however, is the relatively small natural increase (births minus deaths) in population. After decades of losses of young adults, the age structure of nonmetropolitan Nebraska has shifted to one of relatively higher death rates and lower birth rates. J.A.D.

NEBRASKA POPULATION PROJECTIONS 1985-2020

In addition to population estimates, the Bureau of Business Research periodically prepares population projections for the state. These projections can be used for planning by state and local governmental agencies, business firms, labor unions, and other organizations. For example, businesses can use them to target products for a specific age group, or schools can use them to determine future needs for buildings and teachers.

The latest projections were prepared in November 1982 and were based on data from the 1980 census. Projections were made for the state and counties by age and sex for the years 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020 and were published in *Nebraska Population Projections 1985-2020.*

This publication contains three projection series—high, medium , and low—based on differing assumptions of net migration. The medium series most closely reflects the trends revealed in the 1980 census and 1982 estimates. At the state level, age information is provided for five-year age groups and 75+. The information at the county level is not as detailed and is available for the age groups 0-4, 5-14, 15-24, 25-44, 45-64, and 65+. In addition, a special tabulation was made for the 0-17 age group.

When using projections, it is important to note the distinction between projections and the current estimates mentioned earlier. Current estimates make use of actual post-1980 census data from the recent past (1981 and 1982), such as reported births and deaths, to measure change from 1980. Projections, on the other hand, are forecasts of future populations based on assumptions of expected births, deaths, and migration.

Copies of *Nebraska Population Projections 1985-2020* are available for $17.50 from the Bureau of Business Research, 200 CBA, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588-0406. Checks should be made payable to the Bureau of Business Research.

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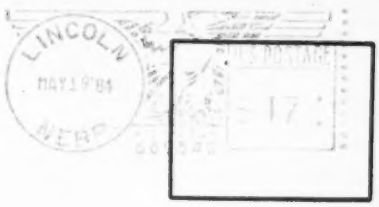

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